

REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

MEETING

DATE: 9/3/2003

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AGENDA SECTION: Consent Agenda	ORIGINATING DEPT: Police	ITEM NO. D-7
ITEM DESCRIPTION: 2003 Citizen Corps and Community Emergency response Team (CERT) Grant Program		PREPARED BY: Roger Peterson

Local units of government in Minnesota have a unique opportunity to obtain grants to assist them with the establishment of "Citizen Corps" units, consisting of trained volunteers that are capable of assisting local law enforcement, emergency management, and medical officials with emergency and non-emergency public health and safety projects. One of the programs in the Citizen Corps is the Community Emergency Response Team program (CERT). The CERT program educates citizens about hazards they face in their community and provides training in basic lifesaving skills. The citizen-responders, if needed during a disaster, use their training as part of a neighborhood or workplace team to assist when professional responders are overwhelmed or not immediately available.

FEMA has allocated money to Minnesota to begin building and enhancing Citizen Corps groups across the state. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) is the designated administrator for these programs. The Rochester Police Department Crime Prevention Unit would like to enhance the existing CERT program in the community by providing CERT members with additional CERT equipment.

The Citizen Corps/CERT grant program is 100% federally funded, with no match required from state or local agencies. Grants are expected to be in the range of \$3,000 - \$10,000.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED:

The Police Department requests approval to apply and accept a 2003 Citizen Corps and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Grant and enter into an agreement with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety for the grant project. Further it is requested that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute such agreements and amendments as may be necessary to implement the project on behalf of the City of Rochester, Rochester Police Department.

COUNCIL ACTION: Motion by: _____ Second by: _____ to: _____

